

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (original) A purified peptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 8, and SEQ ID NO: 9.
2. (original) The purified peptide of claim 1 the amino acid sequence is a fragment of the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 8, and SEQ ID NO: 9.
3. (currently amended) The purified peptide of claim 2 where the fragment comprises a contiguous sequence of at least $\lceil \frac{5}{2} \rceil$ amino acids.
4. (original) The purified peptide of claim 2 where the amino acid sequence of the fragment is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 10, and SEQ ID NO: 11.
5. (original) The purified peptide of claim 1 the amino acid sequence is a derivative of the amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 8, and SEQ ID NO: 9.
6. (original) The purified peptide of claim 1 where said peptide is capable of binding to a strain of *Francisella*.
7. (original) The purified peptide of claim 6 where the strain of *Francisella* is selected from the group consisting of *F. tularensis*, *F. tularensis* LVS, *F. philomiragia*, and *F. novicida*.
8. (original) A purified peptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 10, and SEQ ID NO: 11.
9. (original) The purified peptide of claim 8 where the amino acid sequence is a fragment of the amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 10, and SEQ ID NO: 11.
10. (original) The purified peptide of claim 8 where the fragment comprises a contiguous sequence of at least 3 amino acids.

11. (currently amended) The purified peptide of claim [[1]] 6 the amino acid sequence is a derivative of the amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 10, and SEQ ID NO: 11.
12. (original) The purified peptide of claim 8 where said peptide is capable of binding to a strain of *Francisella*.
13. (original) The purified peptide of claim 12 where the strain of *Francisella* is selected from the group consisting of *F. tularensis*, *F. tularensis* LVS, *F. philomiragia*, and *F. novicida*.
14. (currently amended) A purified polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 50% identical to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, and SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ ID NO: 10, and SEQ ID NO: 11.
15. (original) The purified peptide of claim 14 where said peptide is capable of binding to a strain of *Francisella*.
16. (original) The purified peptide of claim 15 where the strain of *Francisella* is selected from the group consisting of *F. tularensis*, *F. tularensis* LVS, *F. philomiragia*, and *F. novicida*.
- 17-47 (cancelled)
48. (currently amended) A diagnostic kit for detecting the presence of a *Francisella* strain in a sample comprising:
 - a. at least one peptide identified selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO. 2, SEQ ID NO. 3, SEQ ID NO. 6, SEQ ID NO. 7, SEQ ID NO. 8, SEQ ID NO. 9, SEQ ID NO. 10, and SEQ ID NO. 11, by the method of claim 23 and said peptide capable of binding to said *Francisella* strain; and
 - b. a means for detecting said peptide.
49. (original) The kit of claim 48 where the means for detecting binding comprises detecting a detectable label that is linked to said peptide.
50. (original) The kit of claim 49 where the detectable label is an enzyme, a chromophore, a flourophore, an affinity tag, an additional peptide sequence or a radioligand.
51. (original) The kit of claim 49 where the detectable label is detected directly or

indirectly.

52. (cancelled)

53. (original) The kit of claim 48 further comprising at least one of the components selected from the group consisting of a positive control bacterial sample, a negative control bacterial sample a negative control peptide and a set of instructions for directing the use of said kit.

54. (original) The kit of claim 53 where the negative control peptide is a peptide having the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO. 4 and SEQ ID NO. 5.

55. (original) The kit of claim 48 where the *Francisella* strain is pathogenic for a mammal.

56. (original) The kit of claim 48 where the *Francisella* strain is selected from the group consisting of *F. tularensis*, *F. tularensis* LVS, *F. philomiragia*, *F. novicida*.

57-68 (cancelled)